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McManus bill would open new sources for recycling funds

LANSING – Local governments would have more options for funding recycling programs under a bill introduced in the Michigan Senate today by Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

Senate Bill 79 would allow local units of government to sponsor a ballot proposal to fund recycling programs. Local voters then would have an opportunity to vote on the additional funding.

“One size rarely fits all, especially when it comes to providing local government services like recycling programs,” McManus said. “Our approach in this bill is to give communities the opportunity to tailor recycling programs to their unique needs and determine – at the local level – how best to fund those programs.”

The Leelanau County Solid Waste Council has endorsed the legislation as a solution to its funding dilemma.

“We have repeatedly stressed the need for a stable, voter-endorsed, evenly distributed funding mechanism for our recycling and household hazardous waste programs,” said Trudy Galla, Leelanau County planning director. “The proposed bill would provide just that: a voter-endorsed, “flat fee” that would be evenly distributed throughout the county, and would adequately cover the costs of our program.”

The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

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